

Abstract**OPTICAL COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK**

An optical communications network uses tandem connection monitoring for monitoring errors introduced by a sub-network. The sub-network nodes are provided with a sub-network monitoring arrangement, and when the sub-network monitoring arrangement identifies a fault, an internal alarm indication indicative of a fault is provided as the error information. The tandem connection monitoring arrangement, upon receipt of data with the internal alarm indication, replaces the internal alarm indication with a general fault indication.

The network of the invention has two levels of alarm indication. One is for identifying a fault in a preceding sub-network, and the other is for identifying a fault internal to a TCM monitoring section. This enables path alarm flooding to be avoided.

[Fig.4]